



Gerard Joseph Burke

October 22, 1948 - February 5, 2022

Burke, Gerard Joseph

It is with heavy hearts & much sorrow that we mourn the passing of Gerard Joseph Burke at the QEII Hospital in Halifax, on February 5, 2022.

Gerard was born in Halifax, NS, to John & Mary (Coady) Burke on October 22, 1948. Gerard retired in 1999 as a Senior Police Constable after 30 years of service with the Dartmouth City Police. He and Janis spent their retirement at their home in Fox Harbour.

Gerard is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Janis (Taylor) Burke. He is also survived by his sisters, Jessie McDonald of Dartmouth and Sharon Gray (Don) of Bridgewater, and his brothers, John Burke (Sylvia) of Riverview, NB and Mike Burke (Kathy) of Chilliwack, BC, as well as many nieces and nephews. Gerard was predeceased by his parents as well as sister Anne Beaton and brother Thomas Burke.

Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Police Association of Nova Scotia.

Cremation has taken place. Due to COVID-19 restrictions a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

On-line condolences may be sent to: www.harboursidecremation.ca

Tribute Wall

HG

“ *To Janis and Gerard's brothers, sisters, nieces & nephews,*

My heart goes out to you all, as you adjust to your life without Gerard's boisterous, humourous, supportive and loving presence in it. Getting to know him better was special to me and I curled the best, with him as my skip, that I have ever played. God bless our winning Skip, keeping him in your comforting presence, until we all see him again.

*With love,
Holly*

Holly Gordon - June 11, 2022 at 03:35 PM

CS

“ *Janis and family, our sincere condolences. The service at St Thomas Moore Church in Pugwash today was lovely. The church was packed, the sun was shining and Gerard is on eagle wings truly, soaring above and watching out for you always. He is missed.*
Mike and Calla

Calla Shank - June 07, 2022 at 01:18 PM

GM

“ *Burke Family*

*Please accept my condolences Janice for your loss of Gerard!
Always remember him of his Laugh.
Thinking of you*

Gail Morgan

gail morgan - March 02, 2022 at 11:10 AM

GG

“ Janis, I was deeply saddened to learn of Gerard's passing. Gerard and I go back a long way. He lived on one side of St Peters Church and I lived on the other. We became friends when we were about 12. In our teenage years, we went to many dances together, often competing for the same girls. We spent lots of time at the pool hall as well. I remember when he met you at the Dart-Teen at Dartmouth High. He couldn't stop talking about you afterwards.

When we were at St Peters High, I recall helping him with geometry. The Provincials were coming up and Gerard needed that Grade 11 geometry to graduate. Graduate he did. That was 1968. I went off to college in Truro and Gerard started working for the City of Dartmouth, then for the Dartmouth Police, and then became a police officer. He loved motorcycles and was soon motoring in a police officer's uniform. If it wasn't for the winter, he would have driven that motorcycle all year round. We were also in the militia together. Even back then, he wore his uniform well and took great pride in it. I remember your wedding and was glad to attend. I recall the great send-off.

The last time I saw you and Gerard was when you visited Diane and I in PEI, arriving in style on that big beautiful motorcycle. I was glad to see you both. Diane remembers the special connection, support, and love you had for each other and also Gerard's joy for life. I wish now I had made more effort to keep in touch. Just want to let you know I am thinking of you. Take care, Greg.

Greg Gillis - February 24, 2022 at 08:06 AM

RC

“ Our sincerest condolences to Janis and family.
Jean and Roland Crooks

Roland Crooks - February 23, 2022 at 08:24 AM

BK

“ *Janis and family there are no words that can express the hole, that has been left in Gerards passing. You and Jardie as I called him, made a beautiful couple. You and your great sense of humor and Jardie with his great belly laugh , and the both of you with outgoing personalities. Dan and I had taken a visit down to Fox Harbour and stay with you, great trip. Wish we had gone again. Many souls are feeling the loss.. God be with you and the family. Barb Killen*

Barbara Killen - February 16, 2022 at 04:26 PM

CB

“ *The ‘Burke’s’ hold a special place for our family. They arrived in Fox Harbour the same month I did... and built relationships with each of my siblings and I. Gerard had a knack of conversation and teasing us and an unforgettable jolly belly laugh that made you smile as well. I’ve heard endless times about a ladies smarts after she turns 18... a teasing remark Gerard passed along to my daughter as well. When the teasing stopped there was always an encouraging word of advise for life decisions. Janice and Gerard s family, we hope the happy memories bring you comfort at this time of sorrow. Crystal*

Crystal Bushen - February 16, 2022 at 08:22 AM

CF

“ *Janis, please accept our sincere condolences. Back in the days we worked at Sears, Janis, I remember when you and Gerard were first dating.*

Cynthia (Mitchell) and Gregg Flynn.

Cynthia Flynn - February 15, 2022 at 08:48 AM

KM

*So sorry to hear of Gerard's passing. He was always very kind and funny. Thinking of you Janis
Kelly Morrison*

Kelly Morrison - February 15, 2022 at 01:28 PM

DG

“ Our condolences to you Janis and family. We remember well the last time last summer when you dropped in for a visit. Always enjoyed our conversations and his hearty laugh.

Donna & Maurice Gallant - February 15, 2022 at 06:11 AM

BJ

“ My deepest sympathies to Janice and Gerard's family. Gerrard was such a great guy to work with. He and I worked as a team of plainclothes officers for a couple of years. He was like a brother to me. Along with so many of my fond memories of him and Janis, they both actually took the time to enhance my horse riding skills. He was an excellent partner in all phases of our duties. I recall how we were, as a team, particularly successful in our interviewing strategies and techniques, a relaxed and easy-going common sense approach in that sphere. I too enjoyed visiting him and Janis at their farm, especially observing their forever love and respect for each other. A True Love Story. I have so many overwhelming wonderful memories of Gerard and Janis that it is not possible to express it all in this space. However, I am a first-hand witness to confirm all of the wonderful comments and experiences of those who have expressed their sorrow in Gerard's passing. God Bless you, Janis. Rest in Peace Gerard.

Bill Joyce

Bill Joyce - February 14, 2022 at 02:42 PM

CB

“ Dear Janis,

So very sorry to read about Gerard's passing! Sending thoughts and prayers to you and Gerard's family at this difficult time.

Take care,

Coleen (Burke) Branscombe

Coleen Branscombe - February 14, 2022 at 11:19 AM

BH

“ *To Janis and the Burke family: I was very sorry to hear of Gerard's passing. My condolences to all of you but especially Janis; I know you will miss him terribly. Gerard will also be missed by many at the Curling Club where he was always a larger than life presence.*

Betty Hodgson - February 14, 2022 at 09:09 AM

LT

“ *Rest in peace Gerard. My condolences to your family.*

Linda Todd - February 14, 2022 at 04:41 AM

AE

“ *My sincere condolences Janis. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely Angela Empey and family*❤️

Angela Empey - February 13, 2022 at 09:27 PM

CH

“ Our ‘Uncle’ Gerard. His laugh was award winning! Seriously he won a contest!

Some of my earliest memories of him were watching him direct traffic in his white gloves. He was so proud to serve on the police force and represented them after retirement driving under the law enforcement patch.

Always loved visiting The Farm, hearing his stories and seeing him tease Janis.

XO Rest easy, the farm chores are done.

Chrissy - February 13, 2022 at 08:50 PM

GM

“ Janis and family:

So sorry to about Gerard’s passing. Gerard and I attended St. Peter’s together and there were a lot of good memories both from our school days and growing up in the neighborhood. I last saw Gerard at the St Peter’s reunion and it was great to talk about “the good old days.”

Gordon Misener

Gordon Misener - February 13, 2022 at 06:05 PM

LC

“ So very sorry for your loss Leonard Corney former neighbour 27 maple street

Leonard Corney - February 13, 2022 at 03:14 PM

EJ

“ Janis we were so sorry to hear of Gerard’s passing we havnt been going to Fox Harbour the last few summers and didnt realize he was ill. He always had a smile and wave when I would see him on my walks. He and Dick liked talking “horses” . Thinking of you and your family during this most difficult time. Sending our sincere condolences:

Dick and Elva Jamieson

Elva and Dick Jamieson - February 13, 2022 at 09:35 AM

HM

“ Meeting Gerard many years ago riding the highways and visiting he any Janis at the farm was always a great time Janis we all thought there were many days ahead I guess it wasn't Gods way we'll miss you old friend Rest in Peace love to you Janis

Hannah McSavaney - February 13, 2022 at 09:21 AM

CF

“ My condolences to the Burke family. I met Gerard in 1996 when the three police services were amalgamated. He was well respected by us all and his sense of humor helped us all relax. May he rest in peace.

Cliff Falkenham - February 12, 2022 at 05:01 PM

RF

“ Our sincere condolences to Janis and family. We were lucky enough to have Gerard and Janis as neighbours on Newcastle Street for a few years. We shared many fun times including a visit from a couple of his police colleagues who came to their back yard on a noise complaint when we were bucking up firewood early in the morning with a power saw.
So sorry for your loss,
Robert and Sheila Frame

Robert Frame - February 12, 2022 at 11:44 AM

RR

“ Janis so sad to hear of Gerard's passing. I enjoyed the time joking with you guys when you came into Charmans. Such a great guy, and great couple. He had such a great presence. Brought a smile to everyone. My heart and prayers are with you and your families, stay strong.

Rod Roach

Rod Roach - February 12, 2022 at 10:31 AM

AH

So very sorry to hear of Gerards passing. Found it so fun meeting and talking to him and Janis at the exhibitions. I still have the beautiful stall signs you made for us. Clifford and I are thinking of you at this difficult time.
Ardith & Clifford Hatch

Ardith & Clifford Hatch - February 12, 2022 at 11:47 AM

PB

“ My deepest sympathies to Janice and Gerard's family. Gerard and I grew up together in downtown Dartmouth and remained friends through out our youth and later during our police careers.

Gerard loved life and made friends with everyone with his sense of humour and infectious laugh. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Paul Bonang

Paul Bonang - February 12, 2022 at 09:08 AM

DC

“ Janis, We were saddened to hear of Gerard's passing. He was an amazing guy to work with - always had a smile and wonderful sense of humour - and of course an unforgettable laugh. May you take comfort in all the wonderful memories you have of your loving time with him, Dave & Joan Cluett

Dave & Joan Cluett - February 12, 2022 at 08:50 AM

NS

“ I was blessed to have Gerard as my Godfather and 'Uncle'. He was a joy to be around, had a heart of gold, that epic laugh!, and was so fun to visit at his oasis in Fox Harbour. As a child I'd search the streets as we drove through Dartmouth, or on trips to MicMacMall, in hopes of spotting him on duty. It was so exciting to see him in his uniform.

He was so wonderful with my young children too, he lit up during our cherished visits.

Forever missed Xo

Nicole Shaw - February 12, 2022 at 08:07 AM

CV

“ *Janis and family:*

Who didn't love Gerard, he was a well respected colleague and a friend to all. Gerard had an infectious laugh and sense of humour that could pick up anyone on a bad day. I loved watching he and Janis together,, such admiration and love for each other. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sad and difficult time.

*Kind thoughts
Charlie A. Verge*

Charlie A Verge - February 12, 2022 at 08:07 AM

RP

“ *Before I became a member of Dartmouth Police I saw Gerard on television for having the most incredible laugh. Service with him was an awesome experience. He was always quite thoughtful, professional, and was an all around nice person. Rest In Peace my friend.*

Rick Prescott - February 11, 2022 at 10:07 PM

GC

“ *Sad to Learn of Gerard's passing. I had the privilege of being able to work with him when I first joined the Police. My Condolences to all The Family.*

Greg Cainen - February 11, 2022 at 05:23 PM

CK

“ *My thoughts and prayers to Janice and family sincerely Claudia Cullen Kimber*

claudia kimber - February 11, 2022 at 04:06 PM

RL

“ Truly saddened to hear of Gerard passing. I had the pleasure of working with Gerard over the years as a Police Officer. Sincere and heartfelt condolences to all.

Rod Laybolt

Rod Laybolt - February 10, 2022 at 07:50 PM

TM

“ I started as a police dispatcher in 1988 with Dartmouth City Police. The norm was a civilian and a constable operating the phones and radio. Gerard was the first officer I was lucky enough to be mentored by. His advice "one call at a time dear." He was always kind, always calm. It was a privilege to work with him. Wishing peace and comfort in the good memories I'm sure he leaves you his family and Janis most of all.

Trish McNeill - February 10, 2022 at 03:42 PM

DL

We were so sorry to hear of Gerard,s passing . May the cherish memories that you have help you through this very difficult time Our deepest sympathy Don and Bernice Landry

Don and Bernice Landry - February 17, 2022 at 02:59 PM

GM

Condolences on Gerard's passing. We had a great force in Dartmouth and Gerard was part of that force.

Gloria McCluskey

Gloria P. McCluskey - February 18, 2022 at 09:01 PM